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NFL SEASON PREVIEW

Our picks for division winners as season kicks off. 24-25

Say hello to these Philly food scene newbies. 19

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BATTLING TO BE COMMANDER IN CHIEF

The candidates offer their views on U.S. military might during last night's nation forum. 2

GETTY IMAGES

3 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

JURY CHOSEN FOR TRIAL OF BUNDY BROTHERS, OTHERS FOR STANDOFF

1 The trial of seven anti-government activists, including ranchers Ammon and Ryan Bundy, for leading an armed takeover of a federal wildlife refuge in Oregon was set to begin on Wednesday with jury selection, court documents show. The takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, which started on Jan. 2 with at least a dozen armed men, was the latest flare-up in a decades-old conflict over federal control of millions of acres of public land in the West. The protest was sparked in part by the return to prison of two Oregon ranchers convicted of setting fires that spread to federal property in the vicinity of the refuge. Jury selection was set to begin on Wednesday in a federal courthouse in Portland, with opening arguments likely to begin next week, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office said. REUTERS

THREE KILLED IN MIDAIR PLANE COLLISION IN GEORGIA

2 Three people were killed when two planes collided above a regional airport in Georgia on Wednesday, a fire official said. The crash occurred near the West Georgia Regional Airport in Carroll County, about 40 miles southwest of Atlanta, said a county fire department employee who did not give her name. The spokeswoman could not say what types of planes were involved in the collision or the exact time of the incident. Fire officials were on the scene investigating, she said. It was not immediately clear if anyone survived the crash or what caused it. Live video of the airport posted online by WSB-TV at about noon local time showed what appeared to be a smashed single-engine aircraft lying on a large lawn or runway. A second aircraft was not shown. REUTERS

HOUSE REPUBLICANS TO DISCUSS WHETHER TO IMPEACH IRS CHIEF

3 House of Representatives Republicans will hold a special conference next week to discuss whether the nation's top tax collector, Internal Revenue Service Commissioner John Koskinen, should be impeached, House Speaker Paul Ryan said on Wednesday. "This is something that we're going to have a planning conference on next week and we're going to discuss among our members, and the members are going to vote the way they want to vote on this," Ryan told reporters. House conservatives are pushing for impeachment, saying Koskinen failed to comply with a congressional investigation into IRS actions applying extra scrutiny to conservative groups' applications for tax exempt status between 2010 and 2012. REUTERS

Clinton, Trump answer veterans' questions at NBC's Commander-in-Chief Forum

National security forum turns into forum on Clinton's emails.

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GETTY IMAGES

Tax returns, emails and border walls rank among the several hot-button issues of this year's election season, but Wednesday night the two presidential hopefuls faced off on the topics of military might, veterans affairs and national security.

The comfortable lead Clinton had over Trump has tightened with the latest CNN/ORC Poll showing Trump just ahead of the former secretary of state 45 percent to 43 percent, according to CNN. Questions on national security and how the next commander-in-chief plans to prioritize America's military have continued to crop up, and with Nov. 8 looming, the public is hoping for more detailed plans from the POTUS contenders.

The candidates took the stage on Wednesday night for the first-ever Commander-in-Chief Forum presented by NBC. Topics on the table were veterans affairs, military issues and national security. Clinton, who spoke first, began the forum by highlighting her experience as secretary of state, but the conversation turned quickly once again to her email scandal.

Clinton reiterated her defense on the email issue and worked to turn the conversation to her experience. She also took issue with Trump's charge that she acted recklessly with U.S. military forces.

"I use force as a last resort, not as a first choice," she said.

She added that her highest military goal is the defeat of ISIS.

Trump said he felt prepared for the role of commander-in-chief by virtue of his experience as an international businessman.

When asked about his temperament, Trump suggested that his leadership was on display during his recent trip to Mexico. He said that despite his maligned temperament, he emerged victorious from a crowded GOP primary stage.

When questioned about his confidence in current military leaders, he said: "I have great faith in the military. I have great faith in the commanders. … But I have no faith in Hillary Clinton."

Earlier on Wednesday, speaking from Philadelphia, Trump portrayed himself as a defender of traditional Republican values on national security but with a distinct unwillingness to launch new wars in the Middle East. After the Brussels attack in March, Trump said he would not rule out using nuclear arms against ISIS, CNN reported at the time.

Clinton maintains a strong stance against ISIS but isn't just focusing on ground troops in Iraq and Syria, her website stated. "Net-warfare" is the next wave Clinton sees coming in the fight against terror groups.

"As president, I will work with our great tech companies from Silicon Valley to Boston to step up our game," Clinton said in a speech in the wake of the Orlando massacre in July, Vanity Fair reported. "We have to [do] a better job intercepting ISIS' communications, tracking and analyzing social-media posts, and mapping jihadist networks, as well as promoting credible voices who can provide alternatives to radicalization."

Both candidates are standing on platforms that promise improved veteran services, from staffing every VA hospital with OBGYNs to expansive mental health care. Trump has even gone so far as to say on his campaign site that he plans to fire Veterans Affairs supervisors and revamp the program with new leadership. Clinton said on her campaign site that families of veterans will also receive support, even during the transition back to civilian life.

Clinton and Trump are each in favor of a strong military force. After his New Hampshire primary win, Trump said the U.S. military under him will "be so big, so strong, so powerful, nobody is going mess with us," MassLive reported at the time.

Clinton, who is not against a strong military, also said she believes that improving incomes of workers at home will lead to a stronger infrastructure. Gun control is also an issue Clinton addresses as a national security issue.

"I believe weapons of war have no place on our streets," Clinton is quoted as saying on her campaign website. "We may have our disagreements on gun safety regulations, but we should all be able to agree on a few things. If the FBI is watching you for suspected terrorist links, you shouldn't be able to just go buy a gun with no questions asked. You shouldn't be able to exploit loopholes and evade criminal background checks by buying online or at a gun show. And yes, if you're too dangerous to get on a plane, you are too dangerous to buy a gun in America."

In terms of national security and how to protect the homeland, Trump wants to start with his proposed wall between the U.S. and Mexico. He also plans to take on China by lowering corporate taxes in the U.S. with the assumption that American made goods will cost less as CEOs pass the savings on to the consumers. China, according to Trump's website, will also have to deal with increased U.S. military in the East and South China Seas.

See our coverage on the Trump rally on page 6

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The Logan Triangle area has been described as a magnet for illegal dumping. ALEXIS SACHDEV

Plan for Logan Triangle set in cinder and ash

Developers have plans for the desolate swath of Philadelphia, but the plans are somewhat vague.

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The city has plans for Logan Triangle, that lifeless urban blight that has been vacant for more than 15 years, but the specifics of what the transformation will look like is still a bit of a mystery.

Although the plan is in place, an actual design of the redevelopment and what that will bring to the neighborhood has not been determined. The approved neighborhood plan highlights creating employment in addition to housing and recreational space.

"This is not a typical project where someone just says, 'Design this,'" said Jeremy Fogel, executive vice president of the Goldenberg Group, the developers working with the city on the project. "For good and for bad, it's a time-consuming process that started long before we got involved with it."

Located in the Logan neighborhood in North Philadelphia, houses were first built on the Triangle in the 1920s. The soil, consisting of mostly ash and cinder fill, caused the houses to slip or sink over the years. A gas main explosion in 1986 caused one home to level and damaged two others. City officials advised residents to permanently leave later that year.

Demolition and removal of structures built on the Triangle ended in 2001. The Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority acquired most of the land through eminent domain and has maintained the Triangle's 35 acres since 2012. But a lack of development on the Triangle has increased other activity both on the site and in the surrounding area.

"It's desolate," says Thomas Conway, director of the Philadelphia Community Life Improvement Program. "It's a magnet for illegal activity, illegal dumping and other offenses."

The next step for the Goldenberg Group is to continue a dialogue with the community and determine what should be built. After they figure out what the people want, they need to determine whether the desired structures can even be built because of the cost of stabilizing the more unstable areas of the Triangle.

"There are areas where the coal ash is 40 feet deep and other areas where it's five feet deep," said Fogel. "The economics of it are dependent whether they do or don't contribute to the cost. Retail shopping centers would be a lower cost, but the cost isn't the driving factor. It's whether this is the right project to put together and then do it in the most cost-efficient way."

The final plan will incorporate both commercial and residential space, but the use-ratio is unclear until they figure out what needs to be built and how they can build it, Fogel said. Community members requested retail space, but the Logan Triangle almost had a plan that didn't incorporate any retail space at all.

"The needs unmet in Logan would continue to be much ignored by merely inviting Logan folks to go shopping," says author and community organizer Paul Glover. "These solutions come from the bottom up more than the top down."

Glover introduced a plan for the Triangle to be turned into an orchard and tiny house development, but was unable to gather support for his plan after the Goldenberg Group partnered with the city's Redevelopment Authority.

The final Logan Neighborhood Plan is available on the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority's website.

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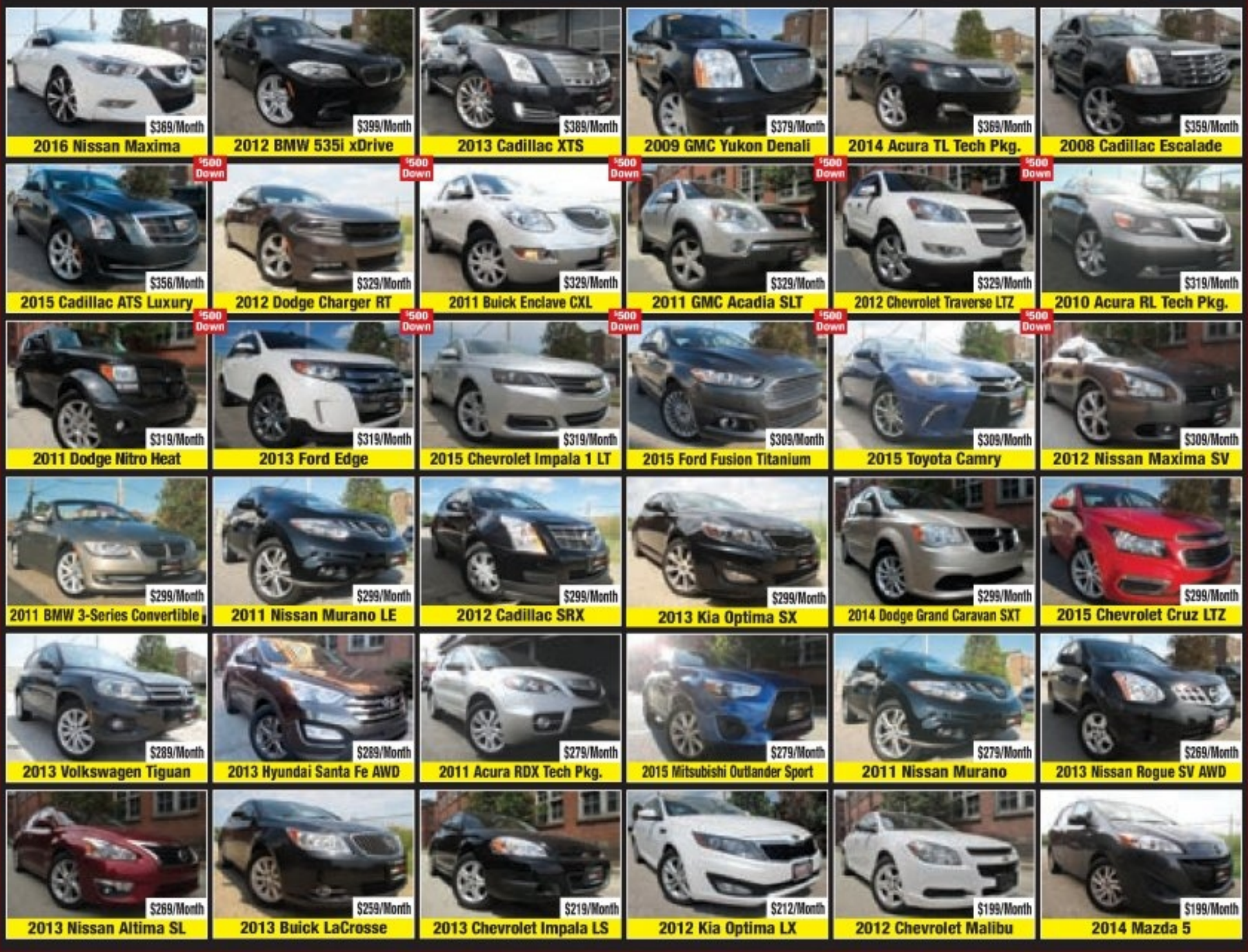

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Anti-Trump protesters block Broad Street during candidate's speech

Trump calls Clinton "trigger-happy" during speech at Union League Club.

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Protesters outside the Union League Club as Donald Trump spoke in Philly SAM NEWHOUSE

Looks as though The Donald cannot make a Philadelphia appearance without attracting a crowd of people who say they despise him and everything he stands for.

A visit by the Republican presidential candidate to the historic Union League Club for a speech Wednesday brought out hundreds of anti-Trump protesters, along with curiosity-seekers, spectators and a few campaign merch vendors.

"Boo Union League! Abe would be ashamed!" chanted protesters carrying an American flag, in reference to the Union League's historic origins as a network of northeastern clubs for wealthy businessman who supported the Union and president Abraham Lincoln during the tumult of the Civil War.

"Any time and every time he comes in here we're gonna shut his ass down," said Black Lives Matter activist Asa Khalif at the protest. "He's a racist, this man has issues with women, issues with the gay community … when you have that type of hate, he's a modern day Hitler, so we cannot allow this man to be president."

However, the usually off-the-cuff and unpredictable Trump was calm and even tempered as he outlined his views on national security during his speech at the Union League club, while criticizing Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton as "trigger-happy."

"Unlike my opponent, my foreign policy will emphasize diplomacy, not destruction," Trump said. "Sometimes it seemed like there wasn't a country in the Middle East that Hillary didn't want to invade, intervene in or topple. She's trigger-happy and very unstable."

While Trump has at various times proclaimed that the U.S. should not allow Muslims in, vowed to defeat ISIS in 30 days after taking the presidency, and said he thinks torture should be allowed, he struck a pacifist note in his Philly speech, bemoaning a recent report that the Iraq and Afghanistan wars have cost the U.S. a total of $6 trillion.

"We could've rebuilt our country over and over again," he said.

The change in tone may be an attempt by Trump to regain some of his rapidly dissipating momentum as he fades in the polls behind Clinton. Pennsylvania, once a battleground state tightly split between the two candidates, now favors Clinton by at least nine points, polls show.

While the crowd of roughly 200 outside was mostly anti-Trump, a few Trump supporters did come out to show their support, including Michael Laurence, 63, a contractor from South Philly with a sign reading "Trump speaks for hard workers U-S-A."

"That's why I'm out here, because most people here are against him," he said.

Laurence said he thinks Trump could help the economy, pointing out that the taxes due on his company's payroll alone would be enough to double the staff.

"There's a lot of us supporters, but we're the working class, we're hard workers. That's why we can't get out here."

Close to a dozen protestors gathered outside the Pennsylvania Department of Health to call for medical aid to be provided to Mumia Abu-Jamal and the other 6,000 prisoners in Pennsylvania suffering from Hepatitis C. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Mumia supporters say denial of Hep C meds is murder

Protesters emboldened by a recent decision in their lawsuit demanding new medical care for Mumia Abu-Jamal took to the streets Wednesday to point the finger at the state health and corrections agencies and accuse them of attempting to murder the infamous inmate.

Longtime Philly activist Pam Africa and other supporters of notorious convicted cop killer Mumia Abu-Jamal, whom they call a political prisoner, were on the street just blocks from where Officer Daniel Faulkner was murdered in 1981, leading to Abu-Jamal's conviction.

Africa and others have long claimed that Abu-Jamal, who was diagnosed with Hepatitis C a year ago, is being intentionally deprived of proper medical care, and are suing the state Department of Corrections (DOC) to change his care.

Given the pending lawsuit, the DOC declined to comment.

However, in a recent court hearing on the issue, the DOC acknowledged that only about 50 of the estimated 6,000 state prisoners with Hepatitis C are getting anti-viral medication, said lawyer Bob Boyle, who is representing Abu-Jamal.

"He [U.S. District Court Judge Robert Mariani] concluded that the doctor's policy of not administering antiviral medication unless you're basically at death's door is a violation of the 8th Amendment," Boyle said.

While Abu-Jamal is getting some medicine for Hepatitis C, it's a generic drug, Africa said, which is causing him painful side effects. She said he has first-degree burns, diarrhea and painful itching.

The protesters want Abu-Jamal and all other 6,000 prisoners with Hepatitis C to get full anti-viral medication.

While those who call Abu-Jamal a celebrity cop-killer despise him, he has long been famed by supporters who claim he was framed or wrongly convicted of Faulkner's murder by a massive conspiracy that targeted him for his journalism work, involvement in the Black Power movement of the '70s and with the MOVE cult.

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Raising a family? Philly might not be the best place to live

Many Northeast cities were ranked low for family-friendliness by a personal finance website

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When it's time to raise a family, many couples think about moving to a smaller, less populated town outside of a large city, but some want to stay in an urban setting — seeing the advantages that it has to offer their future children.

Philadelphia isn't one of the more family-friendly cities in the nation, according to WalletHub, a personal finance website.

WalletHub "compared the 150 most populated U.S. cities based on 36 key metrics that take into account essential family dynamics such as the relative cost of housing, the quality of local school and health care systems, and the opportunities for fun and recreation" to see what the best and worst urban locations were for families.

The results found that none of the top 50 cities included Northeast locations — with many cities in that region trending toward the bottom, including Philadelphia.

WalletHub specifically ranked cities across five key dimensions: family fun; health and safety; education and child care; affordability; and socio-economic environment.

The top cities in the ranking were Overland Park, Kansas; Madison, Wisconsin; Plano, Texas; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and Virginia Beach, Virginia. Plano, for example, ranked No. 1 for most affordable housing, and Overland Park had the lowest percentage of families that were below the poverty level.

Finances seemed to have a large impact in the rankings, as New York City was unsurprisingly No. 1 for attractions, but ranked last for lowest median family salary (adjusted for cost of living).

Philadelphia ranked 123 overall, which was largely the result of its affordability. The city ranked 137 in affordability.

City Hall and Benjamin Franklin Parkway. ISTOCK

New York City, which ranked 115 overall, was at 37 for health and safety, but in the 70s for family fun and education and child care.

"Young families should carefully review their lifestyle and assess their current resources, and then prioritize their preferences accordingly," said Soyeon Park, associate professor in the Department of Child and Adolescent Development at San Francisco State University.

"Not all families have the sufficient wherewithal to buy a large single family house with a spacious backyard, hire a 24-hour nanny, send the child to a private school and shop daily at pricey organic grocery stores. For some families, enjoying outdoor recreational activities together on weekends is crucial, but for others it may be more important to find easy access to multiple child care arrangements as both parents work full-time with nontraditional hours. Long-term financial planning based on individual needs is key to successfully managing a budget, especially when couples have young children or plan to have children in the near future."

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Villanova ranked top US neighborhood for green living

Villanova might bleed blue and white, but it really shines in green.

In its latest report, real estate company Redfin ranked the Main Line suburb as the top neighborhood in the country for environmentally friendly homes. According to Redfin, 57 percent of homes in 'Nova have "green" features, like energy-efficient appliances, double-paned windows, tankless water systems and smart home monitoring features.

ISTOCK

Redfin's researchers arrived at their conclusion by analyzing real estate listings for all homes in the company's markets sold in 2015 and had the words "green" or "energy star" in the listing description.

Villanova beat out five cities in California and one in Washington state, areas known for their eco-mindedness. That is, at least more so than Villanova. The Main Line, known for its manicured lawns and sprawling mansions built in the 1960s, isn't the kind of place you'd expect modern amenities. But Blakely Minton, local real estate agent with Redfin, said new owners often update the aging technology.

"Over the years homeowners in the area have replaced aging roofs, windows, plumbing, heating and cooling systems with newer, energy-efficient materials and designs," Minton said. "In renovated homes you'll find ENERGY STAR appliances in the laundry rooms and kitchens, high-end foam insulation in the walls, double-pane windows, energy-efficient tankless water systems and smart home technology that monitors light and heat use."

Updating an old home isn't so far-fetched, either.

Alex Dews, executive director of the Delaware Valley Green Building Council, said older homes are great candidates to be renovated with energy-efficient technology because their construction with brick and stone provide a solid foundation. Plus, it can help you save money.

If saving wasn't enough, homeowners can also make money. According to Redfin, green homes sold for an average $33,894 more than homes without green features last year.

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Ferguson protest leader found shot dead in burning car

Darren Seals FACEBOOK

Protest leader Darren Seals, 29, was found dead in a burning car in the village of Riverview, about five miles east of Ferguson, early Tuesday, police said.

Missouri detectives have not determined a motive or identified any witnesses in an investigation into the death of a man who led protests in the city of Ferguson following the fatal 2014 shooting of Michael Brown by a law enforcement officer, police said on Wednesday.

Ferguson, a St. Louis suburb, gained national attention because of rioting after the August 2014 shooting of Brown, an unarmed black 18-year-old, by white police officer Darren Wilson. Most protests were peaceful, but violence erupted again when a grand jury decided not to bring charges against Wilson.

A federal investigation later found patterns of racial discrimination by Ferguson police.

The demonstrations helped to coalesce the civil rights movement Black Lives Matter.

"I don't recall anyone having a longer protest, a more productive protest, a more creative protest than what we did," Seals said in an interview with MTV released in November 2014. "I don't think people will ever really appreciate what we did until years from now."

Hours before Seals' death, he posted on Twitter about Colin Kaepernick, a San Francisco 49ers quarterback who protested racial injustice and police brutality by declining to stand for the national anthem, and the presidential election. In his Twitter profile, Seals described himself as a "businessman, revolutionary, activist, unapologetically BLACK, Afrikan in AmeriKKKa, fighter, leader."

Police have not determined a motive for the crime or identified any witnesses, Sgt. Shawn McGuire said. McGuire declined to say in which part of Seals' body he was shot.

County police said officers were first called to investigate a burning vehicle in Riverview. "When the fire was extinguished, a deceased male subject was located inside of the vehicle," the department said in a statement.

Seals, whose last-known address was in St. Louis, was identified as the victim. REUTERS

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US officials: Russian jet came within 10 feet of US spy plane

Russian Sukhoi Su-27 fighter GETTY IMAGES

A Russian fighter jet carried out an "unsafe and unprofessional" intercept of a U.S. spy plane over the Black Sea and came within 10 feet of the American aircraft, two U.S. defense officials said on Wednesday.

The incident is likely to cause more tension between the United States and Russia, who are at odds over the Syrian civil war and Ukraine.

It lasted about 19 minutes and involved a Russian Sukhoi Su-27 fighter and a U.S. Navy P-8 surveillance plane flying a regular patrol, said one official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"They're up there for 12 hours and there are lots of interactions. But only one of the incidents was what the pilot determined was unsafe," said another official, who was not authorized to speak publicly.

Officials were talking with the pilot and reviewing the incident to determine whether it would be included in an annual meeting of U.S. and Russian officials about more serious intercepts, the official added.

The Russian defense ministry said it had sent Su-27s on Wednesday to intercept a U.S. aircraft approaching its border over the Black Sea because the American planes had turned off their transponders, which are needed for identification.

There have been a number of similar incidents involving Russia and the United States this year. In April, two Russian warplanes flew simulated attack passes near a U.S. guided missile destroyer in the Baltic Sea.

The events are reminiscent of the Cold War, when a series of close calls led to a bilateral agreement aimed at avoiding dangerous interactions at sea that was signed in 1972. REUTERS

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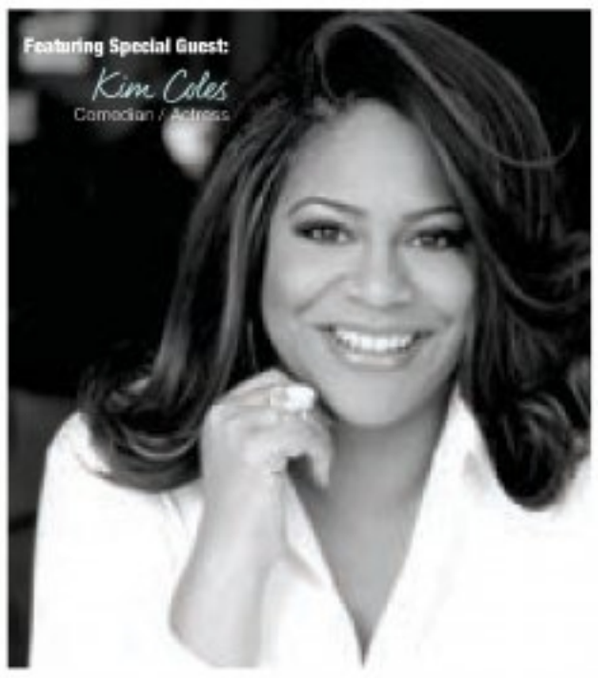

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Study: Thanksgiving flight bookings to Miami fall amid Zika concerns

Bookings for the Thanksgiving period from solo travelers and small family-like groups of two to four members fell the most, the study found.

A Miami-Dade County mosquito control inspector uses a blower to spray pesticide to kill mosquitos in the Miami Beach neighborhood. GETTY IMAGES

Flight bookings to Miami for the Thanksgiving holiday in November dropped after the Zika virus was detected in the Wynwood area in the popular tourist destination, travel data analysis company ForwardKeys said.

Flight bookings were down 10 percent as of Aug. 27, after being up 11 percent as of Aug. 19, the day Florida confirmed that the mosquito-borne Zika virus was active in Miami, according to the report.

According to the ForwardKeys study, trips with Miami as the sole destination were strongly affected, whereas there was no impact on bookings for trips that included the city and other destinations.

There was little impact on flight bookings for September, October and Christmas, the report found.

American Airlines Group Inc., the largest carrier in Miami, and rival JetBlue Airways Corp., were not immediately available for comment.

Leisure airfares to the greater Miami area have inched down while fewer hotel rooms have been booked in downtown Miami in the weeks since the Zika virus was detected there, Reuters reported last month.

Last month, Florida announced four new cases of Zika in the Wynwood neighborhood, where officials have been aggressively spraying for the mosquitoes that carry the virus for weeks. REUTERS

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Apple unveils water-resistant iPhone 7

GETTY IMAGES

The new phone will start shipping in major markets, including the United States and China, on Sept. 16.

Apple Inc. unveiled its new water- and dust-resistant iPhone 7 with high-resolution cameras at its fall product event on Wednesday, and said a Super Mario game was coming to the new phone and Pokemon Go would feature on its upgraded Apple Watch.

The excitement at the Bill Graham auditorium in San Francisco was not matched on Wall Street as Apple's stock spent most of the session in negative territory before briefly showing small gains.

However, Nintendo's U.S.-listed shares jumped more than 20 percent to trade around $35 after it announced a new smartphone game in the venerable Super Mario Bros. series, Super Mario Run, which will debut in December on the iPhone and iPad.

The world's best-known technology company said the iPhone 7, starting at $649, would have one, zooming 12-megapixel camera. The "Plus" edition, starting at $769, would feature two cameras.

It also removed the analog headphone jack, as was widely expected. The new headphones supplied by Apple with the phone will plug into the same port as the recharging cord, but it will also work with Apple's new wireless headphones, called Air Pods, available in late October at a price of $159.

"While the camera improvements for the iPhone 7 Plus are nice, they are incremental for most and the lack of headphone jacks could offset that for others," said Bob O'Donnell of research firm TECHnalysis.

He said Apple's new glossy black finish could be more popular than any tech feature, reflecting the slowdown in major tech innovations for smartphones. REUTERS

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Trending at Fashion Week

From see-now-buy-now to Instagram Stories, we've got all the talking points you need for the spring 2017 show season. NICOLE HUNTER

PROVIDED

A major Tommy Hilfiger x Gigi Hadid happening is happening

Last season, Yeezy provided the big celebrity kickoff to New York Fashion Week. This go 'round it's going to be all about Gigi. On Friday, Tommy Hilfiger will debut its capsule collection with Insta-model Gigi Hadid and it's got all the talking points:

1. The collection will be see-now-buy-now (you'll be hearing that phrase a lot this week), with the brand releasing the clothes in stores immediately after the show.
2. The show will have an extravagant carnival theme — it will literally be one giant fashion party, complete with ferris wheel and arcade games at Pier 16 at South Street Seaport.
3. If you can't manage to get your hands on tickets, stream it live this Friday on Tommy.com
4. Did we mention it's open to the public? The following day, Sept. 10, from noon to 9 p.m., the pier will be open to consumers who will be able to shop the new collection. Gigi Hadid will also be making a special appearance that day.

A homecoming at Oscar de la Renta

This is the season of designer musical chairs. Some of the big changes include Raf Simons at Calvin Klein and Valentino's Maria Grazia Chiuri at Christian Dior, the first woman to helm the storied French fashion house. And this week it was finally announced that Laura Kim and Fernando Garcia, the designers behind hot partywear line Monse, will take over as co-creative directors at Oscar de la Renta, replacing Peter Copping. Why this is extra special: Kim and Garcia got their start at ODLR, where Kim served as design director for more than a decade. While the duo won't officially show until next season, the excitement for their debut is already building.

Yeezy 4! Yeezy 4!

It isn't Fashion Week without a Kanye West headline, and this season there are bound to be a few. First, there was his Life of Pablo tour, which took Madison Square Garden by storm Sept. 5 and 6, days before NYFW officially kicked off. Second, Yeezy 4 landed in a suitably grand fashion the following day. After the rapper stirred up controversy with his model-casting tweet seeking "multiracial women only," he shuttled people to a secret spot on Roosevelt Island for his show, which featured a performance from the artist Vanessa Beecroft. Attendees waited for hours without water or bathrooms. West's models finally emerged, in over the knee boots and hoodies in his signature nude. Earlier, West told Vogue.com he was inspired by his family and life in Calabasas, California. Go figure.

Snapchat or Stories?

Around this time of year, the fashion media loves to publish lists of influencers to follow on social media. Chances are you've seen them; the lists are always the same, but the social media channels and terminology tend to change with the times. Ten years ago it was the "Bloggers to Follow on Twitter." Five years ago it was the "Street Style Muses to Stalk on Instagram." Last year, "The Social Media Stars to Befriend on Snapchat." And this season? Instagram Stories. The Facebook-owned photo-sharing app already reigns as fashion's most-beloved social network. And now with Stories, models, editors and social-media types can overshare those catwalk moments to their heart's content. Expect to be drowning in BTS video clips and hand-drawn doodles.

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How this fashion insider gets ready for NYFW

Natalie Off Duty puts together the perfect Fashion Week look. TINA CHADHA

Finishing touch

"Everyone during Fashion Week loves to wear sunglasses because they're tired, and it makes your outfit," says Suarez. "These are my Kurt Cobain sunglasses. I like them because they're really retro, and white sunglasses are such a pop with this all-blue look. It will be perfect."

"Fashion Week is really important because I like to support local designers, and my readers really enjoy watching the event," says Suarez. ALL IMAGES NATASHA JAHANGIR

During New York Fashion Week, shows aren't just reserved for the runway. Well-dressed attendees in front rows, streets and after-parties are all in the spotlight. This means the question on everyone's mind — "What should I wear?" — takes on a whole other level of importance.

Natalie Suarez, the model, singer and blogger who documents her NYC adventures — often alongside her sister Dylana — on the site Natalie Off Duty, lets us into her Dumbo loft to show us how she plans a look for the big event.

Prep beforehand

"During Fashion Week I try to plan my look at least a day in advance," says Suarez. "I'm always so busy that it's easier to know what I'm going to wear so I can just sleep in and quickly get ready — otherwise I'm just a wreck."

A touch of drama

"I picked these Missoni pants because they're really big and dramatic and will totally stand out for street style and all of that," she says.

Play with texture

"I love going for a monochromatic look," says Suarez about the blue velvet wrap top she pairs with the pants. "It's cropped, it shows a little bit of skin, so it'll go well with a big, oversized bottom."

We're jealous of Suarez's walk-in-closet.

For more images from our shoot, visit metro.us.

Statement earrings

"I'm obsessed with hoops. Not like Jenny from the Block — well, kinda like Jenny from the Block, but a little more elevated," says Suarez.

"You can just wear a white T-shirt and really cool earrings and look done up. It just makes you feel more girly and put together."

Flats are your friend

"These big pants are already so dramatic, so the flats dress them down," says Suarez. "The effortless look is more in for Fashion Week, not like stiletto heels or platforms anymore. It's trying too hard. Everyone is trying to be 'less is more,' which is cooler and easier."

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Pamela Adlon is

The "Louie" alum looks inward on her new show, "Better Things."

KATE MOONEY
@yatinbrooklyn
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GETTY IMAGES

Pamela Adlon is just getting to the good stuff. Known for leading roles on "Louie" and "Californication" and her voice work as Bobby in "King of the Hill," the sassy actor now has her own show that she writes, produces and stars in. In "Better Things," a semi-autobiographical 30-minute comedy she co-created with Louis C.K., Adlon plays Sam Fox, a working actor in L.A. who's also raising three daughters on her own (like Adlon).

The show depicts Fox navigating the day-to-day ups-and-downs of being a working mom with a laugh and a shrug. In the world of "Better Things," it seems, adulthood is about making it up as you go.

"I always felt like the log line for my show could be, 'Life is what happens to you when you're too busy to make any other plans,'" she says. "You have to make room for things that are

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making it up as she goes

Pamela Adlon, left, wrote, produced and stars in "Better Things," making its premiere Thursday on FX. COLLEEN HAYES/FX

unexpected all the time. You just can't plan."

We spoke with Adlon in advance of the "Better Things" premiere, which is Thursday, Sept. 8 on FX.

When you were writing the show, what was the balance of using your own life for material and creating anew?

I definitely had to look inward and tap into the Rolodex of stories I've been hoarding. I've been looking at my life in an observational way for so long, and then as I brought in these other actors, everything just became more fleshed out. As I was doing each episode, I was finding [Sam's] voice. I didn't really think, "Oh, this is how I'm going to be as Sam Fox," or whatever. It just became more and more clear as I was doing the show.

She's definitely kind of like me, 2.0. She's much more, I guess, volatile. Things that are dormant in me or characteristics that I don't have came to the surface with Sam. She's more extreme than I am.

How did your experience on "Louie" influence you?

My association and collaboration on that show definitely helped form "Better Things." You know, I'm the daughter of a writer, but I learned so much about writing from "Louie," it's astonishing. And certainly I built muscles making my show that I didn't even know that I had.

You were born in Manhattan, but you grew up bicoastal. What is your relationship with New York and L.A.?

California has been an amazing place to raise my daughters. When I was young and I was being shuttled back and forth between New York and L.A., I kind of didn't fit in anywhere, and I just wanted to always go back to New York. And then as I became an adult, I decided I didn't want to have that mind-set, I wanted to be happy where I was. And so I got very grounded in L.A. and put my roots down here with my girls, who are very much California girls.

The poster is getting a lot of attention.

That was marketing's concept. And I said, "Great, I'm all for that," as opposed to having my face be on a bus or a billboard and my kids and I having to drive past it. I much prefer my ass showing than my face.

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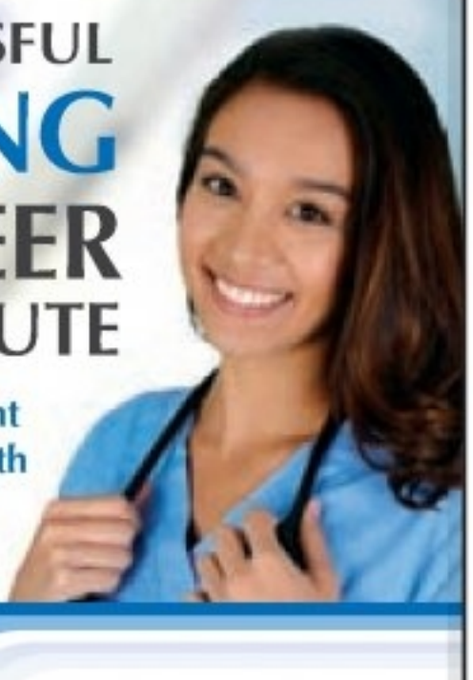

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There is no containing the chaos that is inherent with Joey Bada$$. The 21-year-old Brooklyn-born rapper has managed to turn his music career into a riveting reign over multiple facets of pop culture. That havoc bleeds into our brief phone conversation — the rapper (born Jo-Vaughn Virginie Scott) is pressed between ending his European tour the day before starting his American one alongside Top Dawg Entertainment luminary Schoolboy Q.

As he takes a break on the set of a video shoot, he explains that nerves are a thing of the past. "I don't get nervous anymore over touring, really," he says. "At this point, it'd be pretty weird. Right before I get onstage, I do a little, but I've gotten used to it. When I was asked to tour with Schoolboy, I was like 'Hell yeah!'"

Known for his '90s-inspired hooks and more so present-day social commentary, his chill performance demeanor can also be applied to his songwriting process. "Different days, different moods, different vibes, different methods," he explains. "Sometimes I write, sometimes I don't write. But I go with the flow and I never force anything." The organic nature of his debut studio album, "B4. Da.$$," is conspicuous between bars; the emotion he places behind each song is hard to execute but comes naturally to the MC.

Likewise, his foray into acting was just as seamless. His role as Leon on USA Network's Golden Globe-winning series "Mr. Robot" turned out to be an extension of who he really is. "Leon was an easy role for me to nail because we have so much in common," the rapper says. "He's mysterious, I'm mysterious. He's a talkative dude, I'm a talkative dude. I'm trying to make an impact and progress in all areas, whether it's music or acting, if that makes any sense. I just want to act more, period."

If dark dystopian drama isn't your thing, you may have also spotted him as one of the famous faces in Calvin Klein's spring 2016 jeans campaign. "Fashion is something you get into but style is something that you're born with and I've always been a stylish dude," he adds. "If I like something, I don't look at the brand. I look at the piece to see if it reflects my character, you know, who I am."

When asked if he's trying to diversify the entertainment industry with all of his undertakings, he asks me to repeat the question to allow it to sink in. "No, it's bigger than that," he pensively responds. "I'm trying to diversify the world."

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Mission Taqueria NEAL SANTOS

4 New restaurants to try this fall

Be the envy of your foodie friends and eat at one of these spots first. Now that we're free of the scorching temperatures, excessive humidity and the thought of wearing a bathing suit, dining out has become even more enjoyable. Lucky for us, the only heat to be had during sweater weather (aside from global warming) is coming from the kitchens of Philly's hottest new restaurants. From Rittenhouse to Fishtown, here are four noteworthy newcomers worthy of feeding your appetite, as well as your Instagram.

JENNIFER LOGUE

Cinder

Opening in early to mid-October
15th and Locust streets
If you love beer, cider and pizza, the newest restaurant from Teddy Sourias will surely become a fall favorite. Featuring wood-fired ovens and an open-kitchen design, Cinder will serve up pizza with both creative and classic twists using local ingredients. Beer will flow from copper pipes, and nonbeer drinkers can quench their thirst by selecting from the extensive wine list and custom cocktails. With the success of Uptown Beer Garden, BRU Craft & Wurst, U-Bahn and Finn McCool's, this is sure to be another hit for Sourias and Craft Concepts Group.

Mission Taqueria

Opened two weeks ago
1516 Sansom St.
Inspired by the lively energy of Mexico City and San Francisco's Mission District, Mission Taqueria is a place to eat, drink and socialize. Offering small and large plates with sharing in mind, the menu features an assortment of tacos, ceviches and empanadas, as well as dishes made for four to six guests, like the Lamb Barbacoa. Cocktail fans will be happy to see the list of signature sips, including the Bee Sting, made with tequila, lemon and jalapeno-infused honey. Oh, and did we mention there's a juice bar next to the actual bar? Your drinks have never been fresher.

SLiCE (Fishtown)

Opening by end of September
431 E. Girard Ave.
Craving organic pizza in Fishtown? Marlo and Jason Dilks will be opening the fourth location of their Trenton-styled pizza empire on Girard, but this is their first location with a focus on organic, natural and hormone-free ingredients. The menu will include some new pies as well as a selection of gluten-free options. If you're craving something sweet, there will be made-to-order doughnuts available too, with speculoos (cookie butter) dipping sauce. Yum!

Scarpetta

Opening late September
210 West Rittenhouse Square
You know Philly's food scene is hot when famous New York establishments want to move in. Scarpetta opened in New York's Meatpacking District in 2008 and was named the Best New Restaurant in America by the James Beard Foundation that same year. The first Philly location opens soon at luxury hotel The Rittenhouse and will feature pastas made in-house daily, including the famous Scarpetta's spaghetti tomato and basil. *Buon appetito!*

EAT LIKE AN INSIDER

Esther McManus

Even Julia Child has called on this Philly-based chef for her insight. PROVIDED

Chef Esther McManus may call Philadelphia home these days, but she's had quite the international upbringing — born in Marrakesh and on the move from Morocco to Israel. In the '90s, she became the consulting chef at Philadelphia's Le Bus and transformed the small restaurant into the artisan bread empire it is today. When famed chef Julia Child set out to write "Baking with Julia Child," it's not shocking that she called on McManus for her insight, even featuring her on the TV version of the book where the pair baked croissants. McManus offers her expertise once again on where to dine in Philly, whether you're on a date or alone.

Best late-night meal?

In my home. Preferably with friends. There is nothing like sharing a meal and having wonderful conversations with old friends and new. And a nice Calva to have sweet dreams!

Best meal under $10?

On a beautiful day, in the most beautiful dining room is on a bench in Rittenhouse Square with a freshly made sandwich from Danny Braverman's Le Bus (129 S. 18th St.). It's still the best in town, and fresh air and people watching stirs the appetite!

Best place to dine alone?

In Philadelphia, the best place to dine alone is the lovely, newly and enchantingly decorated dining room at the The Great Chefs Restaurant at The Restaurant School (4207 Walnut St). The menu is always changing and it's a delight.

Go-to date spot?

I thought very hard about a date night, but of all I know the most honest one and a real landmark as of late is Zahav (237 St. James Pl.). Michael Solomonov is the most engaged restaurateur in the city. He also wrote a lovely book.

Best place to take or recommend for out-of-towners?

The Saloon (750 S. 7th St.). Real food for real people. It's easy to forget about the old places, with all the wonderful new restaurants that Philadelphia is famous for, but there's something about The Saloon that draws me back each time.

Best place to catch up with friends?

The Rittenhouse Hotel's elegant dining room (210 W. Rittenhouse Sq.). Their cocktails and the ambiance reminds me of Old World style, but it is still fresh and new.

Most Instagrammable restaurant?

Back again to the Great Chefs Restaurant at The Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College (4207 Walnut St.). It is a show stopper of design and elegance! If you have been there you'll know it immediately, and if you haven't, you'll wonder where in the world this could be.

McManus will be honored on Sept. 25 by Les Dames d' Escoffier Philadelphia at the "Outstanding in Her Field" Farm Dinner. JENNIFER LOGUE

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HOT PLATE

Nashville Hot Buns

Jennifer Logue eats her way through Philly
jennifer.logue@metro.us

The Nashville Hot Buns sound naughty and taste delicious. JENNIFER LOGUE

I've got to admit — I wasn't wooed by Bud & Marilyn's at first. I've never been much of a fried-food fan, and that seemed to be a major theme of its Southern-inspired menu.

Nestled on the cozy corner of 13th and Locust, the restaurant is always packed, and its orange doors and retro neon sign make it impossible to ignore. When I heard it was celebrating its one-year anniversary, I decided it was finally time to give Bud & Marilyn's a try.

Being a writer, I can't help but be influenced by a dish's name, and the Nashville Hot Buns immediately caught my attention on the menu. Sure, they were filled with fried chicken, but I was willing to get adventurous for the sake of foodies everywhere. If I didn't like it, I could always order one of the many salads available. (Seriously, there's a whole section.)

I soon discovered that Bud & Marilyn's puts a more refined spin on comfort cuisine. When the waitress brought out the Nashville Hot Buns, I was pleasantly surprised to see them offered in smaller portions. One order gets you two hot buttered rolls — perfect for sharing — and comes with hot fried chicken, little pickles, ranch and pickled brine slaw. Surprisingly, the chicken was very lean and not greasy at all. The pile of pickled veggies provided a dose of cool, crisp freshness with each bite, and the ranch added a buttery element that helped lessen the tartness of all those pickles.

If you're looking to split a few small plates with friends here, the Nashville Hot Buns should be in your lineup. Get yourself a glass of the much-raved about Frosé (frozen rosé), add a side of crispy cheese curds, and you'll be in fried-food heaven.

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MUSIC

Martha Graham Cracker and Eliza Hardy Jones

Singer Eliza Hardy Jones joins Philly's reigning tallest, hairiest drag queen, Martha Graham Cracker, for an evening of cabaret and song that's not to be missed. Jones has lent her ethereal vocals to a number of bands, including Buried Beds, Nightlands, Strand of Oaks and Grace Potter's project. One can only hope the night includes a duet with Miss Graham Cracker.
Sept. 8, 8-11 p.m.
L'Etage
624 S. Sixth St.
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brownpapertickets.com

FESTIVALS

South Philly Sausage Fest

A sliver of West Passyunk Avenue closes Saturday for the second annual Sausage Fest in Newbold. Ten area restaurants, like Grubhouse, Taproom on 19th, Vegan Commissary and Mike's BBQ provide the grub, while Philadelphia Brewing Co., Sly Fox Beer and other breweries help you wash it all down. On the activity front, jam to live music all day from local acts New Pony, Griz and more, and let the kids go wild in a sectioned-off play area.
Sept. 10, noon-8 p.m.
West Passyunk Avenue between Broad and 15th streets
$12-$54
southphillysausagefest.com

Greenfest Philly

Headhouse Square transforms into a festival of all things green and sustainable. Touted as the largest environmental fest in the tristate area, Greenfest features demonstrations on how to prepare vegan food, a beer garden, free yoga for kids and adults and a marketplace where you can peruse eco-friendly, handmade merch.
Sept. 11, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Headhouse Square
Second and Pine streets
Free
cleanair.org/greenfest

Buzzed Ice Cream Social

The official end of summer may have come and gone, but ice cream never goes out of season. Stop by Bartram's Garden on Sunday afternoon for an old-fashioned ice cream social. Your $15 ticket gets you your first drink, an ice cream or float and access to the historic gardens. Frozen treats and boozy ice cream floats come courtesy of Little Baby's Ice Cream and Art in the Age, so you know it's going to be delicious.
Sept. 11, 3 p.m.-5 p.m.
Bartram's Garden
5400 Lindbergh Blvd.
$15
bartramsgarden.org

SARAH PLONSKI

FESTIVALS

Honey Festival

Honey bees get their rightful day in the sun this weekend during the sixth annual Honey Festival. The festivities take place over three days and in three locations: On Friday, attend a Honey Happy Hour from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. at Glen Foerd on the Delaware; a full day of family-friendly to-dos take places Saturday at Wyck Historic House from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; and things close out Sunday at Bartram's Garden with food, water activities, honey-centric workshops and more from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sept. 9-11
Various locations
Free
phillyhoneyfest.com

SHENANIGANS

Skeletor Karaoke Gung Show

The coolest karaoke party in Philly celebrates nine years with a special night of tunes featuring the most dastardly KJ in all the land, Skeletor. Check out karasong.net to start planning what you'll sing that night. Be careful what you pick, though: As always, people who sing sucky songs just may get gonged off the stage before they have a chance to reach the final note.
Sept. 9, 10:30 p.m.
The Trocadero
1003 Arch St.
Free
thetroc.com

THEATER

2016 Fringe Festival

It's one of the most exciting times of the year in Philadelphia theater. The Fringe Festival gives you a chance to explore venues across the city where arts organizations both established and emerging bring their own unique brand of performance. The options are overwhelming — hundreds of performances this weekend alone — but that's part of the fun. Check out the festival guide at fringearts.com to find something that's right for you.
Sept. 8-24
Various prices and locations
fringearts.com

MUSIC

Culture Club

The original lineup of Culture Club comes to Philly for the first time in over a decade. The appearance comes after the band had to cancel their last local gig here in 2014, when frontman Boy George suffered a throat injury. The night promises to be a parade of '80s chart-toppers like "Karma Chameleon," "Do You Really Want to Hurt Me" and "Time (Clock of the Heart)."
Sept. 9, 8:30 p.m.
Electric Factory
421 N. Seventh St.
$69.50
ticketmaster.com

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Steve McCurry (b. 1950), *Women at Shoe Store*, Kabul, Afghanistan, 1992, Archival pigment print, 40 x 60 inches, Courtesy of Steve McCurry.

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Great fall getaways

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Fall is a magical time to travel almost everywhere, with mild temperatures and fewer crowds.

Philippines

Friendly, welcoming and primarily English-speaking, the Philippines offer a unique mix of indigenous and European cultures in Southeast Asia. Beyond the frenetic bustle of Manila, more than 7,000 islands offer an endless variety of beach experiences, from commercial resorts to private island retreats.

Minneapolis

The North Loop of Minneapolis spreads out along the Mississippi River within the city's Warehouse Historic District. Like Berlin, Brooklyn or New Orleans' Bywater District, this Twin Cities enclave has witnessed a slow but steady rebirth as artists and business owners have moved into once-derelict warehouses and set up shop, restoring lofts and opening stylish boutiques and notable farm-to-table restaurants.

Ecuador

This vibrant South American nation is so much more than a gateway to the Galapagos. Ecuador is small enough that visitors can go whale-watching, hiking and museum-hopping all in one trip. Quito — the highest capital city in the world, at 9,350 feet — is home to 500-year-old plazas, one of the highest aerial lifts in the world and New Andean cuisine.

Munich GETTY IMAGES

Munich

This year, Germany commemorates the 500th anniversary of the Reinheitsgebot (Beer Purity Law), the 1516 legislation that dictated how Bavarian beer could be made. Accordingly, Munich, the state's capital, will host a more-festive-than-usual Oktoberfest (Sept. 17-Oct. 3) that will certainly draw larger-than-normal crowds. Beyond the beer steins, Munich charms visitors with its elaborate gardens, outstanding museums and palaces.

Utah

Home to both desert and mountains, Utah is the place to get outdoors this fall. With the historic creation of Park City, the largest ski and snowboard resort in the country with more than 7,300 skiable acres and 300 trails, there's no better time to experience Utah's famous powder. Not a skier? No problem. Hiking the red-rock canyons of the "Mighty Five" parks — Zion, Bryce Canyon, Arches, Capitol Reef and Canyonlands — may change your life.

Haiti

The island nation's vibrant culture and people beckon intrepid travelers as tourism quietly rebounds following its devastating earthquake. Visitors who make the trip will discover a rare kind of Caribbean tourism — one that's not about relaxing on palm-lined beaches (although that is doable here) but about stirring the soul. Haiti's rich history, colorful art, voodoo folklore and jaw-dropping natural beauty create a heady mix unlike anywhere else.

Palm Springs

The mod California desert oasis was beloved by Golden Age stars (Marilyn Monroe was discovered poolside here in the 1940s). These days, you'll find hip, modern-day Angelenos, for a good reason: Its 350 days of sunshine (a dry heat at that) create the ideal climate for golfing on dozens of area courses or lounging by the pool at glamorous hotels with pampering services.

Abu Dhabi

The capital of the United Arab Emirates offers luxury, adventure and, soon, three major cultural institutions. This opulent city on the Persian Gulf is on the cusp of becoming the Middle East's fine-arts darling, with the Louvre Abu Dhabi opening in late 2016, in a striking building designed by Jean Nouvel, and the new Guggenheim in early 2017. The city is only a stone's throw from the epic Empty Quarter, the largest contiguous sand desert in the world, where adventurous types can go dune bashing and sand boarding.

Stay at the Qasr al Sarab resort, at the edge of the Empty Quarter in the United Arab Emirates. GETTY IMAGES

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Holland America Line: 7-Day Alaska $699* pp, ocean view $999*, balcony $1199*

CARIBBEAN/BAHAMAS

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NORWEGIAN: 7-Day Bahamas $599* pp, ocean view $779*, balcony $799*
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Carnival: 8-Day Caribbean $994* pp, ocean view $1104*, balcony $1389*

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Celebrity Cruises: 14-Day Europe $849* pp, ocean view $899*, balcony $1149*
Holland America Line: 12-Day Europe $879* pp, ocean view $1069*, balcony $1929*

EXOTIC CRUISES

Carnival: 5-Day U.S/Canada $319* pp, ocean view $339*, balcony $489*
Royal Caribbean: 7-Day Australia $505* pp, ocean view $655*, balcony $936*
Holland America Line: 10-Day Panama $749* pp, ocean view $899*, balcony $999*
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NFL preseason power rankings | by Luke Miller

No. 1

Panthers
Last season: 15-1

With the Broncos' quarterback experiment making it impossible to place the defending champs first, the team they beat gets the position by default and merit. The Panthers are the reason their two closest competitors for this top spot spent the end of last season at home watching the Super Bowl.

No. 2

Seahawks (10-6)

Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson looks primed to continue the streak he ended last season on, and with Thomas Rawls and Christine Michael looking set to go, this could be the most balanced Seahawks offense we've seen.

No. 3

Cardinals (13-3)

The Cardinals have that offensive balance in spades too, but the last time we saw them they were getting ejected from the playoffs with extreme prejudice. Carson Palmer's postseason performance left much to be desired and there's accordingly much to prove.

No. 4

Packers (10-6)

Should we R-E-L-A-X that Jordy Nelson hasn't played a snap yet? Probably. Aaron Rodgers will always find receivers, and Jared Cook could have a renaissance in his first year playing with a quarterback. They are the favorites to win the NFC North over Sam Bradford and the Vikings.

No. 5

Patriots (12-4)

The AFC teams are all held back at the start of the season by suspensions, injuries or quarterback ... issues. The Patriots make it to the top of the bunch by virtue of making us pretty confident in how the rest of their season will go once Tom Brady returns.

No. 6

Broncos (12-4)

How low can you rank the defending Super Bowl champions? All the luck in the world to Trevor Siemian, but these are uncharted waters. Their defense is still there, but the running game didn't exactly help Peyton Manning last season. The Chiefs and Raiders are chomping at the bit for this division.

No. 7

Steelers (10-6)

Next up in the hamstrung at the beginning of the season AFC sweepstakes, the Steelers. Theoretically, they need another threat to take attention away from Antonio Brown. Though based on Brown's past performances, do they?

No. 8

Chiefs (11-5)

The Chiefs retained their key players admirably this offseason, losing Doug Pederson and Chase Daniel aside. If Jamaal Charles is ready, they should be good to go. If he isn't, well, it didn't really seem to affect them last season.

No. 9

Texans (9-7)

Whether or not J.J. Watt makes it back for Week 1, it's looking like the AFC South is the Texans for the taking, even if it isn't as weak as in seasons past. Brock Osweiler, Lamar Miller and DeAndre Hopkins is as good a trio as they've had.

No. 10

Bengals (12-4)

If Cincinnati can get off to a good start while the Steelers are dealing with suspensions, it'll help them all the more. Tyler Boyd has got to give Andy Dalton a target not named A.J. Green, and quickly.

No. 11

Raiders (7-9)

Denver's problems are the Raiders' opportunities. It's been a long time since there was this much optimism (and good reason for it) entering a season in Oakland. Probably since the season following their Super Bowl loss.

No. 12

Jets (10-6)

The Jets have the most to gain from Tom Brady's suspension. But to take advantage of any early Patriots slump, they'll have to survive a schedule that begins with the Bengals, Bills, Chiefs, Seahawks, Steelers and Cardinals.

No. 27

Eagles (7-9)

Unless Carson Wentz is a lot more ready than even the Eagles likely expect, their surprise trade won't pay dividends in 2016. The defense tore up the preseason, but this is an offense full of not particularly heralded youth.

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NFL preview: Predictions and picks

Here are our picks. Let us know how wrong we are.

EVAN MACY
@evan_macy
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Over the course of a 16-game season, the cream will rise to the top in a log jammed NFL this season. Here's a look at how we think things will pan out this year in each division, and in January/February:

NFC East

Giants

The Giants sort of get the pick by default, but the level of competition is the thinnest of every division. Philadelphia will likely be held back by the learning process that will be Carson Wentz's rookie season. Washington is the defending champ, but will need the run game to be just as good as it was last year. The Cowboys have a rookie QB (Dak Prescott in place of injured Tony Romo) and a rookie running back in Ezekiel Elliott.

NFC North

Packers

This pick is not as hard to make as the East was. It really comes down to two teams, the Packers and Vikings, and each will likely make the playoffs with the Bears and Lions following behind.

NFC South

Panthers

The defending NFC champs lost Josh Norman but should be better on offense with Kelvin Benjamin and Devin Funchess acting as legitimate weapons for Cam Newton. The Falcons, Buccaneers and Saints each have outside shots at Wild Card berths.

NFC West

Cardinals

This division will provide the NFC's other playoff Wild Card team in the Seahawks, but the Cardinals — last year's playoff shortcomings aside — have a complete and balanced offense led by David Johnson and Carson Palmer and a very good defense.

AFC East

Patriots

Jimmy Garoppolo will keep the Patriots afloat until Week 5 when the flood waters will unleash a fury on the NFL that could land Tom Brady an NFL MVP award in just 12 games. The Jets, looking to bank on a winning record last year, are favorites to make the playoffs as a Wild Card.

AFC North

Steelers

Similar to the Patriots early season woes, Ben Roethlisberger will have to wait for Le'Veon Bell to hit the field after he serves his suspension. But once he does, Bell and Antonio Brown will lead the Pittsburgh offense to a division title.

AFC South

Texans

Finally, a competitive division. The Texans — winners of the division last year are favorites but only slightly. Andrew Luck has the chance with T.Y. Hilton and Donte Moncrief to piece together a really good year. The Jaguars are a year older, a year more experienced and a year more jam-packed with potential superstar talent.

AFC West

Chiefs

Really, Kansas City gets the nod by default, as the potent Broncos defense was enough to carry an elderly Peyton Manning, but not rookie Trevor Siemian. The Raiders, much improved, will be contenders for a Wild Card spot.

Our Super Bowl pick: We are taking a revenge-minded Tom Brady and the Patriots over the Cardinals in February. GETTY IMAGES

7 Reasons to be grateful Eagles traded No. 7

Despite its likely negative impact on the 2016 season, the Sam Bradford trade is being largely heralded as a coup for Philadelphia, and Howie Roseman in particular.

Why? Read on.

Sam Bradford, we barely knew ye. GETTY IMAGES

1. Someone overpaid for Sam Bradford. Again.
The first-round pick Chip Kelly claimed he was offered for Bradford finally materialized Saturday. This is the second time a team has spent a first round pick on Bradford. Teams have also spent a total of $113 million on Bradford so far in his career and have yet to be compensated with a playoff appearance or winning season.

2. The Eagles aren't in a position to win now.
The second-to-last roster cut of the preseason, which saw the jettisoning of Rueben Randle, Chris Givens and Mike Martin, was a signal that the Eagles are entering a rebuild, especially on offense.

3. Bradford didn't want to be here.
All the "Sam is our guy" coach-speak and retroactive "happy to be here, happy to compete" from Bradford aside, he made a very clear statement in the days leading up to the Eagles selection of Carson Wentz. Well, Bradford got his wish.

4. Bradford can't elevate the supporting cast in Philadelphia.
Throughout his career, there have been many defenses of Bradford. Chief among them is the continued lack of a good offense surrounding him. If Bradford had had another poor season, this defense would be there again, ready and waiting.

5. The trade language guards against the Vikings' success.
Obviously, the worse the Vikings do this season the better that first-round draft pick looks. The fourth-round pick the Eagles received turns into a third-rounder if the Vikings make the NFC Championship game and a second-rounder if they make the Super Bowl.

6. It opens a roster spot.
The Eagles are comfortable with Wentz starting and Daniel as the backup, which means his roster spot can go to another position where it will be desperately needed.

7. Sam Bradford is not that good.
The quarterback the Vikings would have used had they not traded for Bradford, Shaun Hill, has a career quarterback rating of 85.2. Bradford's is 81.0. Hill has a higher career completion percentage and yards per attempt than Bradford.

Bradford has played enough games to qualify for QBR rankings three times in his career. He has placed 25th, 30th, and 31st last season. He is trending in the wrong direction. LUKE MILLER

PIER 40 SELF STORAGE, INC.
841 S Columbus Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19147,
will be conducting a **Public Sale** of the contents of the storage spaces listed below, with the contents being sold to the highest bidder. Owner reserves the right to bid, reject any or all bids, and cancel or adjourn the sale. The sale is being held to satisfy a landlord's lien and will take place via an on-line auction at www.storagetreasures.com on **SEPTEMBER 8, 2016** beginning at approximately **10am** and concluding on **SEPTEMBER 20, 2016** at approximately **10am.** Certain terms and conditions apply.
#38 Jeffrey D. Fadelin, #392 Arlene Scrimmager
#623 Fredda Kanterman

STORAGE KING USA
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
Notice is hereby given that Storage King USA will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a lien placed on the contents (pursuant to 73 P.S.). The sales will take place on 9/13/2016. The sale will be conducted on StorageSutfit.Bid, under the guidance of Christopher Ross (AU002857) on behalf of the facilities' mgmnt. Units will be available for viewing prior to the sale on StorageSutfit.Bid. Contents will be sold for cash only to the highest bidder. A 10% buyer's premium will be charged and $1.00 (units larger than 150 sq ft will be more) cleaning deposit per unit. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as "general household (hh)" unless otherwise noted. Storage King USA at 335 E Price St., Philadelphia PA 19144 will list storage units on the website StorageSutfit.Bid at 11:00 a.m. on 9/13/16 or up to 7 days prior to this date.
#2247 – Teddy Blandin – household • #2396 – Kiana Berry – household • #2361 – Tiffany Hudson – household
#2291 – Sonjan Frederick – household • #2238 – Alif Howell – household
#2176 – Priscilla Giles – household • #2133 – Allen Luther – household
#2001 – Jermaine Brinkley – household • #1187 – Shirley Paulk – household
#1266A – Watson Boone – household • #1158 – Jermaine Saunders – household
#2033 – Jack Cotton – household • #2011 – Denise Igess – household
#2180 – C. John Ciliroscale II – household • #2298 – Robin Renee Tillary – Reid – household.

Locker Room Self Storage, Inc.
PUBLIC AUCTION
Notice of public sale of personal property. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy the lien of the landlord, at public sale by competitive bidding on **SEPTEMBER 22, 2016 @ 11am.** Locker room self storage, inc. Located at 2001 w. Erie Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19140. The personal goods stored in space no:
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UNIT # 3242 AMBER, BEVERLY
UNIT # 1245 BAILEY, DON
UNIT # 3011 BAILEY, DON
WDBGA29D9HF280577 87 MERCEDES BENZ
UNIT # 3017 BRISBANE, BRUCE
UNIT # 1275 BRINSON, DALEE
UNIT # 3040 BROWN, BERNARD
1FTJS35H8HEC10304 91 FORD VSN
UNIT # 2134 BUTLER, SAMUSHA
UNIT # 3036 CHERUBOY, JANET
UNIT # 3039 CURTIS, DAJOSE
UNIT # 1302 D'AMOUR, SEBASTIEN
UNIT # 2013 EDWARDS-MCMILLAN, MARGARET
UNIT # 2235 EVANS, ANTHONY
UNIT # 0035 GIBBS, DARLENE
2FMHA57264 04 FORD FREESTAR
UNIT # 1345 GRANT-PERKINS, CHARLES
UNIT # 3013 HUGHES, MARSHALL
UNIT # 1274 HUNT, TELISA
UNIT # 1268 JOHNSON, JOHN
UNIT # 1294 MARSHALL, TRACEY
UNIT # 3013 METCALF, ALICIA
UNIT # 2357 MUHAMMAD, ISAAM
UNIT # 1003 MURRAY, CHERRELLE
UNIT # 2035 MORRIS, CHRISTOPHER
UNIT # 3050 PERKINS, EMILY
5FNRL38618B 14 TOYOTA
UNIT # 1248 ROSS, MARISSA
UNIT # 2138 SEALS, BELINDA
UNIT # 2230 THOMAS, SONOVIA
UNIT # 1111 WASHINGTON, PATRICIA
UNIT # 2140 WILLIS, RAFIA
UNIT # 2004 WILSON, FELICIA
PURCHASE MUST BE MADE IN CASH ONLY AND PAID FOR AT THE TIME OF SALE, ALONG WITH A REFUNDABLE CASH DEPOSIT. ALL GOODS ARE SOLD AS IS AND MUST BE REMOVED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. SALE IS SUBJECT TO ADJOURNMENT AND WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE AN OPENING BID
LOCKER ROOM SELF-STORAGE, INC. 215-225-8585

PUBLIC NOTICE:
Notice is hereby given that **Prime Storage Group**, 2231 S 62nd Street Philadelphia, PA 19142, 215-729-8885 will sell listed units at public auction to satisfy the lien of the owner. The units will be sold online at www.StorageTreasures.com and this auction will end on **September 12th,** 2016 at 10:00 AM. This auction includes the property of:
#313 Shamyra Burns, #415 Ansumana Konuwa A.K.A Ansumana Richard Konuwa, #522 Mary Jane Tate, #1511 Ignacio R. Rodriguez
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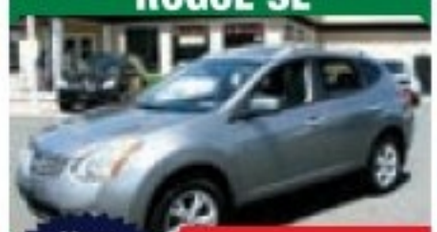
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that Extra Space Storage will sell at public auction, to satisfy the lien of the owner, personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below on **September 16, 2016** at **2:00 PM** located at **12005 Roosevelt Blvd. Philadelphia, Pa 19154, Ph: 215-856-0835**.

125 Dana Robieson - Furniture, Household Items, 1450 Charles Richards - Household Items, 1519 Stephanie Major - Household Items, 1998 Derick Garner - Trailer, 412 David Schmidt - Furniture, 783 Stacey Jones - Furniture/Boxes, 814 Tamara Taylor - Totes, A33 - Marc Wallace - Furniture, Toys, A36 Anne Leigh - Household Goods, P18 Karapet Kankanian - Household Goods, F6 Pablo Camacho / Camacho, Pablo - Furniture and Household Items, 114 Hernan Lopez - Construction Material/Tools, 115 Eric Williams - Vending Machine, J12 Mark Mootoo - Furniture

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell, to satisfy lien of the owner, at public sale by competitive bidding on **September 16, 2016** at **2:00PM** at the Extra Space Storage facility located at: **6204 Oxford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19111, 215-744-1563.** The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to general household, furniture, boxes, clothes, and appliances.

B140 Moses Santana (Household Items), B217C Erica R. Krider (Household Items, Furniture), C107 Khalil R. Darlington (Household Items), C148C Bradley J. Giletto (Beds, Boxes), C211C Joanna Michelle Rorie (Furniture), D148 Charles E. Hummel Jr. (Business Inventory).

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasure.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder take possession of the personal property.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that Extra Space Storage will sell at public auction, to satisfy the lien of the owner, personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at location indicated: **1553 Grant Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19115, 215-464-3913. SEPTEMBER 16, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.**

**534 - Quynhhoa Nguyen (household, art, appliances),
85 - Miguel Vazquez (household),
445 - Nicholas Wyatt (household, furniture, clothes)**

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

MEDICAL RESEARCH

To advertise call Jennifer Lydon at 215-717-2694 or email jennifer.lydon@metro.us

Union playoff push down to final six matches

After Saturday, the Union won't return home until Oct. 16. GETTY IMAGES

MLS coaches always talk about league parity. How on any given week, a team from the bottom half of the league can beat a team from the upper half of the league. That especially rang true for the fourth-place Philadelphia Union (11-10-7), who were trounced on the road Saturday, 3-0, by the last-place Chicago Fire (6-12-8).

After a two-game win streak that had the team believing a first-place finish in the East was possible, this loss certainly was deflating as the Union now face a brutal final six matches left in the season against teams that are all firmly entrenched in playoff position.

"We have three at home, three on the road, no easy games left," Union manager Jim Curtin said. "I don't think there are any easy games, tonight is an example of that. The table, you can kind of throw it out the window at this stage because anybody in this league can beat anybody if you're not ready to go. A difficult night for us, we had chances, we didn't take them well, and Chicago punished us."

The Union were playing without three of their starters. Jamaican goaltender Andre Blake and United States midfielder Alejandro Bedoya were on duty for their countries in the World Cup Qualifiers, while defender Joshua Yaro was attending the funeral of his mother in Africa. Curtin didn't use that as an excuse for the team's lack of energy against Chicago.

"Andre and Alejandro certainly make us better, and Josh being absent, it hurts, but, at the same time, we have a deep squad," Curtin said. "Everybody needs to step up in these moments, and for the most part this year, we have, just a little bit of a letdown tonight. … They beat us on the night and they deserved the three points."

All three starters are expected to be back in the starting lineup for this Saturday's match against the Montreal Impact (9-7-10). The match could also have the potential return of Union captain and midfielder Maurice Edu, who has missed the entire 2016 campaign due to a stress fracture in his left leg. Edu played 32 minutes in a rehab assignment with the Bethlehem Steel FC on Sunday, which could set the stage for his Union debut this weekend.

"It was a tough loss for us, it wasn't expected that way," Union forward Fabian Herbers said. "We're just excited to get home and get back on the field and get revenge for this result."

Saturday's match against the Impact will be the Union's only home game this month. The game will air at 7 p.m. on the Comcast Network.

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45 "-- -- Around" (Beach Boys)
46 Shrimper's net
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8 Ciao, to the queen (hyph.)
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21 "Diana" composer
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24 Ruminated
25 Loosen
26 Roadside warning
27 Woodsy
28 Brief craze
30 Cheers!
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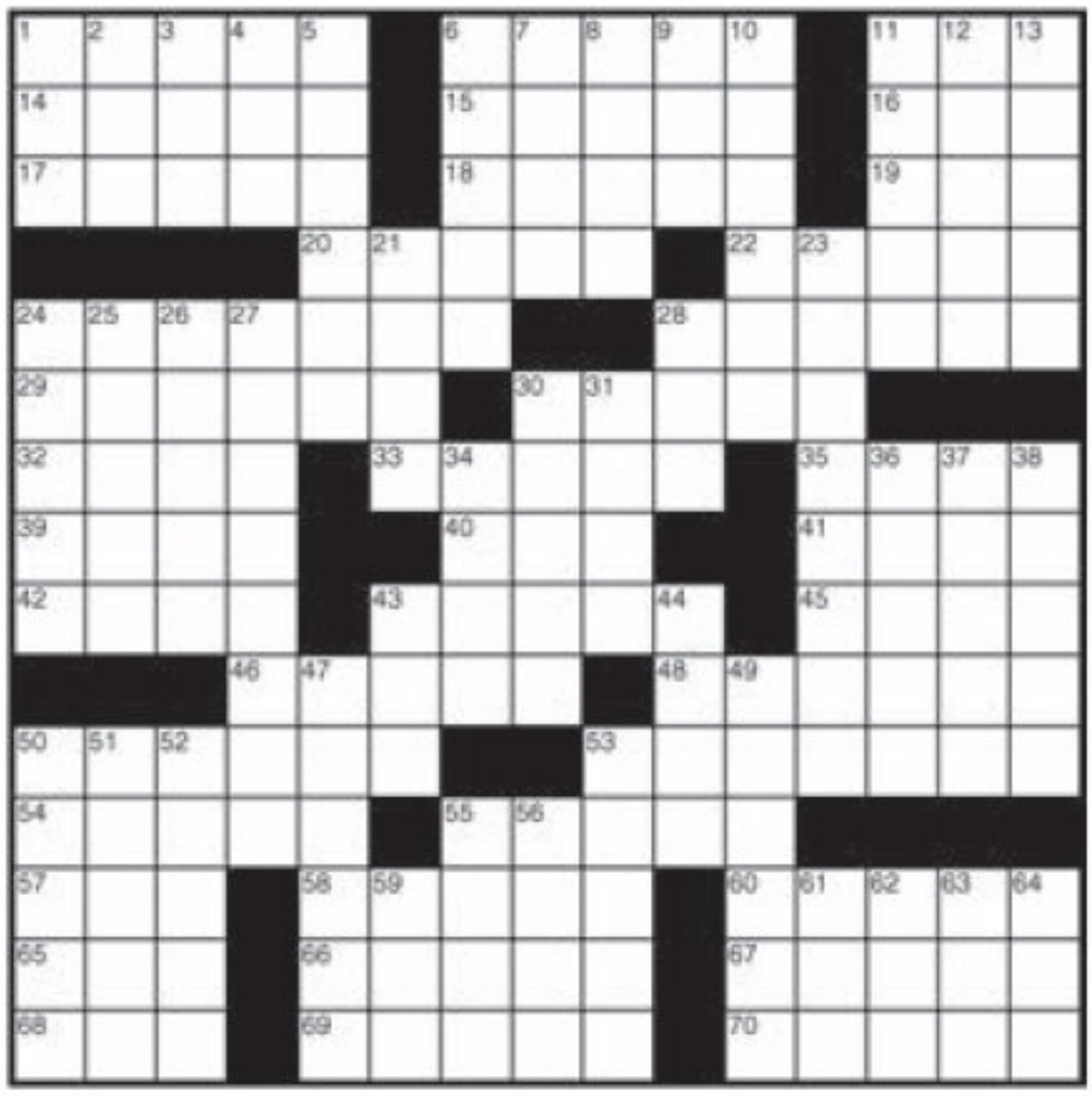
63 San Francisco hill
64 Mao -- -tung



metro.us/sudoku

easy

								7
	9	3	6		1			8
	2			5		4		
				8	6	1	4	
		6	2		4	5		
	8	4	9	1				
		8		4			3	
7			3		8	9	2	
5								

hard

3			4	6			7	5
			2		1	8		4
		1				9		
			7			3		
9		2				7		8
		4			8			
		9				5		
8		3	1		4			
2	5			9	6			3

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries An opportunity will develop that will give you greater job security. Negotiating and signing contracts are favored. Positive changes are heading your way.

Taurus It's a good time to travel for business or educational purposes. A retreat will open your mind to a host of information that will help you reduce your stress.

Gemini You should put more energy into making personal gains, not into trying to change others. Focus on your appearance and physical fitness.

Cancer Don't take on someone else's responsibilities. It's not up to you to make other people look good. Do your best to get ahead by taking pride in what you do.

Leo Make a point to bring about positive change. Don't let the past hinder your advancement. You can't change what's already transpired.

Virgo Consider how to make your life easier. Give people who are placing demands on you something to occupy their time and keep them out of your hair.

Libra Take a chance and make a point to do things differently. What you discover will make a difference, not only to you, but to others with similar dilemmas.

Scorpio Refuse to take on too much. Honing in on what's most important will make a difference to the outcome of something you truly believe in.

Sagittarius Emotional matters will escalate if you cannot keep a secret. Offering information based only on hearsay will result in you being blamed for meddling.

Capricorn Ask for clarification if you aren't satisfied with the information you are given. If you stay on top of your personal business, positive results will unfold.

Aquarius A chance to show what you have to offer will be met with encouragement, but first you must take care of unfinished business.

Pisces When traveling or dealing with people who don't share your views, you are best off being protective of your personal information. EUGENIA LAST

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Certified Audit CAC of Circulations

THE CLAY STUDIO'S

2nd Annual Clay Fest

Saturday, September 10 | 11am-5pm

PRESENTED BY PNC arts alive be part of art

Group Sculpting | 11:00AM – 5:00PM

Help turn a 1,000 pounds of clay into an incredible work of art inspired by Charity Thackston's Food Jawn artwork.

Artist Demonstrations | 11:00AM – 5:00PM

See our Resident and Teaching Artists in action as they demonstrate their making process throughout the day.

Drop-In Community Workshops | 11:00AM – 2:00PM

Wheel Throwing 101

Try your hand at throwing on the potter's wheel under the expert guidance of our teaching artists. Decorate your creation and The Clay Studio will have it ready for you to pick up in a few weeks.

Clay Animation

Create and animate clay characters using the art of stop motion. One person or a group can create characters, a story line, and bring your creations to life.

Silk Screening with Little Chair Printing

Work with teaching artist and owner of Little Chair Printing, Hope Rovelto, to make a silk-screened t-shirt. T-shirts quantities are limited.

Drop-In Community Workshops | 2:00PM – 5:00PM

Wheel Throwing 101

Try your hand at throwing on the potter's wheel under the expert guidance of our teaching artists.

We All Scream for Ice Cream Bowls

Decorate an artist made bowl provided by The Clay Studio and it will be ready for you to pick up in a few weeks.

Hand Crafted Ice Cream Social | 2:00PM – 5:00PM

Get a glimpse into The Clay Studio's new Hand Crafted program, which celebrates the functionality of one-of-a-kind ceramic objects with an ice cream tasting by Zsa's Ice Cream. Then decorate your own bowl made by one of our artists.

Gallery Talks: CHASE (2PM) & LAUREN (3PM)

Kelcy Chase Folsom and Lauren Mabry, both former Resident Artists at The Clay Studio, discuss the work in their respective solo exhibitions.

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

137-139 North Second St, Philadelphia, PA 19106 | 215-925-3453 | www.theclaystudio.org